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While there is still a great deal of work to be done, Congressman MEEKS has helped the Colombian Government establish a society based on the rule of law.

He has worked to ensure that the voices of Afro-Colombians and other historically marginalized populations are heard. He has helped inspire a new and more diverse generation of leadership.

I look forward to seeing the continued impact of this tremendous effort. I am hopeful that these Martin Luther King, Jr., scholars will become leaders not only in their communities but of their country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MEEKS for his hard work, his passion, and his dedication to educating, inspiring, and supporting leaders of tomorrow.

TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE FLORIDA'S WATER QUALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, when Members think of my home State of Florida, they think of water. From our beaches to our springs to our lakes and our rivers, Florida's waterways stretch far and wide, covering nearly 26,000 miles.

Florida's Sixth District, my district, is no exception, with miles of Atlantic Coast to the east and bordered by the St. Johns River to the west.

From the Matanzas River marsh to the Everglades, water is at the heart of Florida's ecosystem and its natural beauty. People are drawn to Florida's water, and the numbers prove it. One thousand people per day move to the Sunshine State, with a record 126 million people visiting Florida last year.

Tourism drives our economy, and Florida's tourism is dependent on clean water and its natural resources.

Unfortunately, our water quality is threatened right now. We saw a new blue-green algae bloom erupt in the St. Johns River just last month. While it is too early to know exactly the specific cause of this incident, we do know what causes algae blooms, and there are steps the government can and should take to prevent them.

This is why I am focusing my efforts to remove septic tanks from my district and connecting those communities to new sewer utilities.

I am grateful for our State lawmakers and Governor Ron DeSantis, who prioritized water quality this year, putting \$49 million toward water quality and wastewater grants and \$25 million specifically for septic-to-sewer conversions. These conversions will have a positive impact by lessening discharges since septic leakage contributes to these growing algae blooms and these growing algae problems.

We must leverage these State resources with Federal funds to address

the full needs of Florida. We have the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program and State Clean Water Revolving Fund program, but they need to be better focused and better utilized to address this issue.

We have to do more. That is why I requested much-needed funding for our National Estuary Program, which funds the Indian River Lagoon, in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill. The Indian River Lagoon in my district has, unfortunately, fallen victim to septic leakage and requires a plan for restoring water quality.

The National Estuary Program supports and will help maintain healthy water and estuary ecosystems like the Indian River Lagoon.

Alongside many of my Florida delegation colleagues, I supported the \$200 million funding request for the Everglades restoration project in April, and I am glad President Trump has amended his budget to include the Everglades. Everglades restoration is dependent on cleaning Lake Okeechobee and its discharges, which impact water along our coast.

I also commend my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for passing the Energy and Water bill yesterday, which includes that \$200 million figure. These requests will go directly toward improving Florida's waterways across the State and areas like the Indian River Lagoon, if signed into law.

I am hopeful that, here in Congress, we can get this legislation passed through the House, passed through the Senate, and onto the President's desk for signature. It is the right thing to do for communities along the St. Johns River and necessary for maintaining the travel and tourism that drives Florida's economy.

We must restore Florida's water quality and take this issue very seriously.

RECOGNIZING CHANCELLOR LELAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true pioneer in education at the University of California at Merced, the newest campus not only in California but among the newest in the country.

Dorothy Leland, our chancellor, is retiring, but she has paved the way for this newest university.

Chancellor Leland and her staff have built a community at UC Merced that is very special. More than 44 percent of the faculty are women. Over the past 5 years, the number of graduate students attending the university has increased by nearly 75 percent.

Probably most impressive of all, I think, is that nearly 75 percent of the students are the first in their families to attend university, and a majority of these are minorities. It is a majority-minority campus.

As a child of Mexican immigrants herself and the first in her family to graduate from college, Chancellor Leland feels a real connection to the student body. She is outspoken about DACA students, with almost 600 DACA students in the university today. She even traveled here to our Nation's Capitol to fight on behalf of Dreamers.

She is one of the founding members of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, a group of more than 200 leaders who support policies that help immigrant, undocumented, and international students succeed at U.S. universities and colleges.

In her retirement, she said she wants to work on immigration reform. We can use that help.

But her work for the students and the campus at UC Merced does not end there. Arriving in 2011 during the Great Recession, Chancellor Leland immediately went to work on developing the university, because of the importance of this campus to the San Joaquin Valley, with a major construction project. She fought for \$1.3 billion in funding to help expand the university, including the construction of new dorm rooms, research labs, a conference center, and an athletic facility. That project has allowed the university to expand from 5,000 to over 8,000 students and doubled the size of the campus.

She has also succeeded in graduation rates, which are up by 12 percent during her tenure. I am proud to say that, last weekend, over 1,300 students graduated.

UC Merced has achieved impressive levels of academic and research distinction and is developing numerous new patents and leading cutting-edge research.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give another shout-out, and that is to President Joe Castro and the faculty and the student body at Fresno State, home of the Bulldogs.

This past weekend, Fresno State graduated over 6,000 students, the largest in the school's history. Over 25,000 students are enrolled at Fresno State, ranked by Washington Monthly last year as one of the top 25 campuses in the United States.

Most importantly, more than 60 percent of the graduating students are the first in their generation to attend and graduate from university.

Both these universities are serving our Nation and doing what, in fact, they should be doing, which is educating and training our Nation's next generation of leaders who will make a difference and who will make America a better place.

I am honored to represent such successful universities in my district, and I am proud of both these leaders, the faculties, and the student bodies because they represent the future of America.

Go Bobcats, and go Bulldogs.

RECONSIDER FUNDING LEVELS FOR FEMA AND CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, let me note that the President's action this week